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ANALYSES, &c.

- I.—*Coleccion de Obras y Documentos relativos a la Historia Antigua y Moderna de las Provincias del Rio de la Plata, ilustrados con notas y disertaciones.* Por Pedro de Angelis. (4 tomos folio.) Buenos Aires, 1836. Communicated by Sir Woodbine Parish, F.R.S.

THE Geographical Society has received, through the kindness of Señor de Angelis, the first four volumes of this valuable work, the first attempt, we believe, as yet made, under any of the new governments of South America, to collect and bring before the world some of the many original records existing in their public archives, illustrative of the history and geography of the Spanish possessions in those parts, which it was the policy of the mother country so carefully to hide from public view. The project of extending the southern frontier of the province of Buenos Ayres, and the expeditions undertaken with the object of driving the Indians beyond the Rio Negro, appear to have led to a search for such information as in former periods was collected; and not only were many valuable papers thus brought to light relative to the Pampas, and those parts of the coast of Patagonia explored and partially settled by the Spaniards in the last century, but a mass of others of the highest interest, connected with the history of the original discovery and subsequent exploration of a great portion of those widely-spread regions formerly comprised under the government of the Viceroy of Buenos Ayres, and reaching from Patagonia to Peru. Señor de Angelis was fortunately able to appreciate the value of these materials; and under the patronage of the present government of Buenos Ayres undertook to publish them; no slight task in a country where all the *matériel* of the press—types, paper, and printers, are imported from Europe, vastly enhancing its expense. To meet this, the work has been brought out in monthly numbers; and as, in the course of its publication, the editor has received many additions to his original collection, there is a want of order as to subject and date in the arrangement of the whole, which is inconvenient in a work of reference. This, however, seems to have been unavoidable, and is easy of correction, if the work should reach a

second edition. To the South Americans, as to us, the greater part of the documents now published are equally new, and the interest taken by them in their appearance may be inferred from a list of nearly five hundred native subscribers annexed to the first volume.

Our limited space will only allow us to give brief notices of the several papers in this very interesting collection; but we can safely assure our readers that a reference to the volumes themselves, now in the library, will repay a careful examination of their contents. To geographers especially, many of them will be found to be of the first importance.

In the order of publication, the first paper in the collection is,

1. *La Argentina, or History of the Provinces of the Rio de la Plata, from the discovery of that river by Solis.* Written in the year 1612. By Don Rui Diaz de Guzman.

This is one of the early chronicles of the Conquistadores. The writer, a gallant and enthusiastic adventurer, allied to the noble family of the Duke of Medina Sidonia, appears to have been actuated by a laudable desire to transmit to posterity a narrative of events in which he was an actor himself, and some of his nearest relatives had played a conspicuous part: though never before published, several manuscript copies of it had got into circulation, one of which was lent to Dr. Southey, who used it in his history of Brazil: Azara speaks of it also, and in terms of the highest praise; esteeming it a better authority for the early history of the dominion of the Spaniards in those parts than any other work he had met with. It now appears with the advantage of an extensive and well-arranged collection of notes by the learned editor, which greatly adds to its value.

Though the author professes to give a description of countries for the first time explored by Europeans, his geographical data are of course not to be compared with those we now possess. His principal object seems to have been to record, as he says in his dedication to the Duke of Medina Sidonia, "the valiant deeds of those brave Spaniards who undertook the discovery, and the conquest, and the peopling of those parts, in the course of which (he adds) there happened many things worthy to be remembered;" and truly his account of the extraordinary perseverance and contempt of every danger and difficulty which so strikingly animated the first discoverers of those countries cannot but excite the admiration of every reader. Amongst them were many noblemen and gentlemen who, imbued with the true chivalrous spirit of the age in which they lived, appear, like brave knights-errant, to have sought for dangers only to overcome them. The boldness with which the new countries were explored and taken possession of is marvellous; considering that the natives of those regions were

not like the inhabitants of Mexico and Peru, but a warlike race who defended themselves against the invaders with an obstinate courage which often baffled the best laid plans of the Spaniards, and led to the slaughter of many of their most notable captains. Speaking of these Indians the editor says—

‘ They were all sprung from the same stock—that of the Guaranís—a nation whose origin, customs, language, and numerous offsets, would alone furnish copious materials for a work greatly wanted in the history of America. They reached from the southern Atlantic to the frontiers of the empire of the Incas, following the courses of the many great rivers and of their numerous ramifications which intersect all that vast portion of the globe. The Timbus, the Agaces, the Caracaras, the Payaguas, were all from this same stock, whose language was spoken alike by the Carios and Arachanes in Brazil, and by the Chiquitos and Chiriguanos in Peru. Every grade of barbarism, from the savage state to the first dawnings of civilization, were to be traced among the various tribes of this large family, which wandered to and fro, subject to no general law or direction. Anthropophagi in some places, and husbandmen in others, they submitted voluntarily to the authority of their Caciques, and to the dictation of their Diviners or Jugglers. The extent of their religion was comprised in the two names of a good and evil spirit, *Tupa*, the translation of which is, *Ah, who art thou?* and *Anang*, the *Persecutor of souls*. Of these Anang, the bad spirit, was by far the object of most veneration, and in propitiating him it was that the influence of the Diviners was principally exercised.

They had a confused tradition of a great deluge which destroyed all their nation, except two individuals, who saved themselves by climbing a lofty palm tree, on the fruit of which they subsisted till the waters subsided.

Their government was vested in an hereditary Cacique in time of peace, and in an elective dictatorship in war: in both cases they yielded a blind obedience to their chiefs, however despotic. The authority of the parent over his children was as absolute as that of the Cacique: marriages were as easily broken as made! Their diversions consisted entirely in dancing and drunkenness: they began with shouts, and ended with blood: their chosen beverage was a fermented liquor, made from maize or honey, and of this they drank till they fell down in a state of madness: at such times they seized their darts, and aimed deadly blows at their best friends and companions. They can hardly be described as a nomadic people; but yet they had, if their traditions are to be credited, undertaken distant conquests; embarking on the rivers in their canoes, and without other arms than their bows and clubs. They boasted of having never submitted to a foreign yoke; and when they bowed their necks to that of the Spaniards, it was under the delusion that they were treating with allies, not foreseeing that they were to be made slaves of.’

Such were the Guaranís in those times. Their language is still spoken by most of the Indian tribes of the western frontiers of Brazil, and may be traced from the Parana to the Marañon.

The Jesuits published a grammar and dictionary of it, which were used in their celebrated missions in Paraguay, where, at a later period, this once warlike people submitted themselves with such wonderful docility to their spiritual sway.

2 and 3.—*Account of the Journey of Don Luis de la Cruz from the fort of Ballenar, on the frontier of the Province of Concepcion, in Chile, through unknown lands, inhabited by Indians, to the city of Buenos Ayres, performed in the year 1806.*

The want of a more direct means of communication between Buenos Ayres and the southern provinces of Chile had long been felt, and at the beginning of the present century the governors of those countries received directions to ascertain how far it was practicable to open a shorter passage across the Pampas, south of the old beaten track between the two capitals by Mendoza. This led to the discovery of some new passes over the Cordillera, and amongst them that of Las Damas, which it was said might be crossed in carriages.

In the spring of 1806, an expedition was planned to start from the frontier fort of Ballenar, near Antuco, in Chile, direct across the continent. The command was entrusted to Don Luis de la Cruz, who had a strong personal interest in its success. The intervening country was in the nominal possession of the Peguenches Indians as far as the river Cudileubú. (Atuel?), beyond which the Ranqueles tribes claimed all the lands to the frontiers of Buenos Ayres. With the first of these nations the people of Chile had at that time a good understanding, and the principal caciques were in consequence easily induced to undertake to escort the expedition so far as their jurisdiction extended. With their aid, and his own party, consisting of sixteen persons, officers and men, Cruz started from Antuco on the 7th of April, 1806. On the sixth day, when he had gone about eighteen leagues on his journey, he arrived at the river Neuquen, formed by many streams from the Cordillera, the principal of which appear to be the Rinquilcubú, which descends from the Sierra de Pichachen, and the Cudileubu, the drain of many smaller rivers, which have their sources in the Cordillera further north. The Neuquen, from the junction of the Cudileubú, Cruz says, no one doubts is navigable to where it falls into the Rio Negro, and thence to the sea.

Proceeding onward, the expedition came to another river, called by the Indians the Cobuleubu, described to be as large as the Neuquen, and which, as far as he could learn, Cruz says *does not unite* with that river, but after a long bend to the east-north-east, which the expedition followed for several days, turns again to the south, and runs to the sea: if this be true, it can be no other than the Colorado.

Still farther on, and when the expedition had travelled, according to their daily measurement, seventy-four leagues from Antuco, they came to a river called by the Indians the Chadileubú, which they described to be joined by the Diamante about five leagues below where it was crossed by the expedition, and farther on by the Desaguadero, which they also soon after passed. This river, therefore, must be the Atuel; more to the south, the Indians stated it to be lost in a chain of lakes resembling those of Guana-cache to the north of Mendoza.

Cruz's account of these rivers throws much new light upon the hydrography of this part of the Pampas, and will doubtless enable geographers to correct many errors which exist in the maps hitherto published.

As the Chadileubú was the nominal boundary of the lands of the Peguenches, they would not proceed without first sending an embassy to their neighbours, the Ranqueles, to explain the object of the expedition; nor was Cruz backward in promising them suitable presents, if they would follow the example of the Peguenches, and assist in conducting his party safely to the frontier of Buenos Ayres. Their leave obtained, the expedition proceeded, and striking direct across the Pampas to the fort of Melinqué, the north-western point of the territory of Buenos Ayres, they arrived there, without hinderance or accident, on the forty-seventh day after leaving Antuco, having travelled, according to their measured distance, 166 leagues.

Whilst resting from their fatigues at this place, some straggling soldiers galloped in from Buenos Ayres, bringing the unlooked-for news of the landing of General Beresford's little army, and the surrender of the capital to the English; the Viceroy, it was said, had fled to Cordova, and thither Cruz proceeded, after dismissing his Indian companions, who had served him the whole way with the greatest fidelity and zeal, and who took an affectionate leave of him, notwithstanding his inability, under the circumstances, to reward them as he had promised upon his arrival at Buenos Ayres.

This was the last attempt at discovery made during the rule of the Spaniards in South America, nor did the power of the mother country survive long enough to permit even this to be acted upon. The very journal of the expedition was lost sight of, and but for Señor de Angelis, might never again have been heard of. It is an interesting volume, and amongst other descriptions, contains a minute account of the manners and customs of the Peguenches, which seem to differ but little from those of the Araucanian nation from which they are evidently sprung, and of which a full account has been given by Molina.

In describing the physical features of the country through which he passed, Cruz makes many observations highly interest-

ing in a geological point of view. He was greatly struck, amongst other things, with the abundance of fossil marine remains in all the vallies on the eastern slopes of the Cordillera. Coal, he says, is to be met with after passing the Neuquen; probably of the same sort as that which has long been known to exist on the opposite side of the Cordillera, on the sea coast; and inexhaustible deposits of salt.

4. *Falkner's Account of Patagonia, originally published in English.*

This curious work, which is now scarce and rarely to be met with, contains the only description hitherto published of the country to the south of Buenos Ayres, upon which any reliance can be placed. The author was a Jesuit, who, after passing nearly forty years of his life in the unknown regions he describes, upon the expulsion of his order from South America, returned to his native country, and published this book. One of his objects was to point out how vulnerable were the King of Spain's possessions in those parts; and there is no doubt (as will be seen by other documents in this collection) that his observations upon this subject induced the Spanish government to found several settlements soon after its appearance, upon the coast of Patagonia, of which the only one now remaining is that on the Rio Negro.

That the work should never before have appeared in the Spanish language, is a striking exemplification of the jealous policy of Spain, and of the care taken to prevent the people of South America from acquiring correct knowledge even of their own country.

Our readers will find a copy of it in the library of the Society, in the original language.

5. *Collection of Documents relating to the City of the Cæsars (de los Cæsares), supposed to exist in the Andes, south of Valdivia.*

The history of the supposed city of the Cæsars seems almost a repetition in a more southern region of the fabulous account of El Dorado, excepting that the evidence adduced in support of the existence of Los Cæsares is so positive and circumstantial as to do away with much of the wonder that such a tale should have imposed not only on the vulgar, but on some of the most learned of the Jesuit fathers, and upon the court of Spain itself, during the best part of two centuries. The least extravagant of the accounts given of this people represented them as inhabiting a city built some distance south of Valdivia, about a couple of leagues from the sea, upon an island called Payequé, in a lake in the Cordillera:—it was described as surrounded by a wall and ditch, and to be defended by artillery:—the houses to be of stone, and roofed after the fashion of Old Spain, and the churches rich and full of silver ornaments:—in their houses the people, who were described as of a fair complexion and habited like Europeans, were served by Indians whom they had reduced to Christianity:—

the snowy Cordillera hid them to the north and west, but to the south and east lay extensive plains which were covered with their herds and flocks, and laid out in corn-fields and gardens. Many witnesses swore to the truth of this description, to which others made the most marvellous additions.

Various were the conjectures not only as to the precise place where this people was to be found, but as to whence they could have come:—some believed them to be the remnant of the Spaniards who had fled from Osorno and the other cities on that part of the coast, destroyed by the Araucanians in 1599; others, that they were the crews of ships known to have been lost in the Straits of Magellan; but none seemed to doubt the fact of their existence.

So lately as 1781, the court of Spain was strongly urged to take some steps to ascertain whether they were not still to be found; and the governor of Chile was in consequence ordered to collect and report upon the whole of the evidence which existed upon the subject. This, we are told, consisted of no less than nine volumes of depositions and other documentary evidence. The fiscal's report upon which has been printed at full length by Señor de Angelis, and sums up after a prolix analysis of the testimony of every individual witness in the terms following:—"Considering such a mass of evidence, there appears no room to doubt the existence of a settlement, either of Spaniards or strangers, in the Cordillera, towards the Straits of Magellan and Cape Horn; and though there may be some difference in the accounts given by the Indians as to the precise spot on which they have been seen, this may be accounted for, &c. &c."

It does not appear, however, that the court of Spain thought fit to move farther in the matter, and the whole story is now as generally disbelieved as it was once credited.

Without running into either of these extremes, we think the temporary sojourn and occasional visits of Europeans to those parts of the coast where their appearance was a novelty to the natives, and may have created exaggerated impressions upon a simple race, may account for a great part of the history of *Los Césares*.

Voyages of discovery, shipwrecks, attempts at colonization, buccaneering, sealing and whaling expeditions, may all have contributed to establish the belief that strange people were upon the coast, who being in reality but casual visitors, no one afterwards could find.

6. *Account of a Voyage from Buenos Ayres to explore the Coast of Patagonia as far as the Straits of Magellan, in 1745.* By the Jesuit Fathers Quiroga and Cardiel; by order of his Catholic Majesty.

The object of this voyage was to examine the coast of Patagonia, in order to see whether there was any suitable point on

which to found a settlement, and avowedly originated in the alarm created by the appearance of the account of Anson's voyage. It contains some information respecting the general aspect of the coast in question, and the determination of several points by observation, which the fathers state had not been correctly laid down by former navigators. Off the river of Santa Cruz they were nearly lost, which leads them to remark upon the great alteration which must have taken place in the depth of water in that river since it was first discovered, and they quote authorities to show, that in former times large ships could safely enter it, whereas when they were there it was blocked up by dangerous sand-banks, upon which they narrowly escaped shipwreck. They point out some errors in the account given in Anson's voyage, and by other foreigners, of the country about San Julians, especially as to the existence of a large river laid down in the old maps, and having its sources in a lake forty or fifty leagues inland, applying somewhat dryly, though perhaps deservedly, to the authors of such wilful mistakes the old Spanish adage—" *á luengas tierras, luengas mentiras!*" The latitudes given of San Julians, Port Desire, and Santa Cruz, differ only a few seconds from the more recent observations by the officers of her Majesty's ship Beagle.

7. *Project for extending the Frontiers of Buenos Ayres to the River Negro, by Captain Undiano. To which is added, the Diary of a Journey made from Buenos Ayres to the City of Talca, in Chile; by the Señores Zamudio and Souvillac. 1805.*

In the first of these papers, Captain Undiano points out the advantage which might result from adopting the line of the Diamante or Neuquen to its junction with the Negro, and thence from that river to the sea, as the boundaries to the south of the provinces of Buenos Ayres, San Luis, and Mendoza, thereby inclosing, as he says, 16,000 square leagues of the best land in the world; which, by the establishment of a few fortified points, might be easily secured from the predatory incursions of the miserable Indian tribes which now wander, as he says, like gipsies over those parts of the country. His opinions are grounded upon having been employed against the Indians in 1784, in pursuit of whom he had passed by the rivers Diamante and Atuel, and had been nearly as far south as the junction of the Neuquen to the Negro, described by Villarino. His paper affords, therefore, some additional data as to the course of that river, with which we are so imperfectly acquainted.

Zamudio's itinerary is valuable to the geographer, and gives the distances minutely from place to place, along a line of road passing from Buenos Ayres by Melinqué; the fort of San José, near the lake Bevedero, south of San Luis; Corocorto, on the river Tunuyan; along the course of that river to the fort of San Carlos; and thence by that of San Rafael, on the Diamante. Zamudio

entered the Cordillera by a valley, through which ran the head waters (manantiales) of the river Atuel, which led him to the pass of the Planchon, where he describes the Cordillera at its summit, instead of broken and precipitous as might be expected, to be a table land, as level and easy to be crossed as the Pampas of Buenos Ayres :—descending on the opposite side by the Valle Grande, he passed the Rio Claro at Quesara, and reached Talca after a journey of 388 leagues.

8. *Memoir on the Spanish Settlements on the Coast of Patagonia, drawn up for the information of the Marquis of Loreto, Viceroy of Buenos Ayres, by Don Francisco de Viedma, Superintendent of the said Settlements. 1784.*

This paper treats of a subject which might have been of considerable consequence (had the author's opinion been adopted) to Spanish interests in that part of the world. It contains an account of the several settlements formed by the Spaniards on the east coast of Patagonia, from the unfortunate expedition of Sarmiento, to the establishment of colonies at San José, Port Desire, and San Julians, in 1788; and of the causes which led to their subsequent abandonment. Viedma, who had had the general superintendence of those establishments, and had watched their progress and prospects with great interest, deploras the policy which induced the Court of Spain to give them up at the moment, he says, when their capabilities and utility were becoming apparent. Independently of other important political considerations, he had looked to them as a source of wealth to Spain, from the whale and seal fisheries on those coasts, which they might have commanded, and which other nations have since reaped the benefit of. They promised also to Buenos Ayres an inexhaustible supply of salt, an article of first necessity there in the preparation of the staple articles of export. He quotes the example of the colony on the Rio Negro, established at the same time, and the only one which had not been broken up, to show that it was perfectly within the power of the settlers to provide for their own subsistence, and that it was an error to suppose that either the climate or soil was unfit for the production of the necessaries of life.

Speaking of that colony, viz., on the Negro, he strongly urges the importance of keeping it up, and shows the immense advantages which may ultimately result from Villarino's discovery that that river affords a navigable communication across the continent to the foot of the Andes over against Valdivia; and he urges the formation of military posts upon it, and especially at the great pass frequented by the Indians near the island of Choleechel, as the best means of preventing the predatory incursions of those savages against the province of Buenos Ayres.

In this Viedma only repeats the opinion given by Villarino, and

often, at subsequent periods, urged by others with the like result, to no purpose. It is only now more than half a century afterwards that precisely the same remedy for the same evil appears to be the only effectual one, and that General Rosas, the Governor of Buenos Ayres, is carrying into effect the plan suggested by Viedma.

To most of our readers, the historical fact that there ever existed any European establishments on the coast of Patagonia will, we believe, be entirely new.

Volume II.

9. *Description of Potosi and its Dependencies, in 1787, by the Governor, Don Juan del Pino Manrique.*

Señor de Angelis observes, that no authentic history of this celebrated city, whose mines have enriched the world, has ever been before published. This account of it was written in 1787, by one of its governors, and goes back as far as the first discovery of its mineral treasures in the year 1546. It comprises, also, a description of the districts of Porco, Chayanta, Chichas, Lipes, and Atacama, which formed part of the intendency of Potosi; the whole jurisdiction comprised in which he calculates to have been little short of 600 leagues in circumference. The population then amounted to 216,871 souls, of which 24,206 resided in the city of Potosi. But Potosi had then lost much of its original importance. In 1611, the editor observes, the inhabitants of the city alone were estimated at 150,000. From the discovery of the mines to 1783, the quantity of silver, on which the King's duties were paid there, amounted to the enormous sum of 820,513,893 dollars; and it was supposed that nearly as much more had been taken out of the mines which had not been brought to account.

The extravagance of the people seems to have been in proportion to their wealth. The celebration of the coronation of Charles the Fifth was said to have cost them eight millions; and the funeral ceremonies, on the death of Philip the Third, no less than six millions of dollars. Of the fortunes of some individuals, some idea may be formed from the fact of the marriage-portion of a daughter of General Mexia amounting to a million of dollars (in 1612): and of another young lady, a daughter of a General Perera, a few years before, to 2,300,000 dollars. The waste of human life in bringing these treasures from the bowels of the earth was frightful, and depopulated sixteen extensive provinces, the unfortunate native inhabitants of which were subjected to the Mita—an Indian word but too significant of the part which all *in turn* were obliged to take in this unwholesome labour.

10. *History of Paraguay, the Provinces of La Plata and Tucuman, by the Jesuit Father Guevara.* Vol. I.

Guevara was one of the most enlightened of the Jesuit fathers,

and was the contemporary and associate of Falkner and Dobrizhoffer, whose works upon South America have been published in our own language. The present, which is a much more comprehensive work, would be quite as interesting, if translated, to English readers. It gives a general description and history of Paraguay and the provinces of La Plata, from their first discovery down to the year 1621. In a second volume Guevara completed the historical part to his own time; but on the expulsion of his order from South America, the manuscript was transmitted to Spain by the Viceroy, Bucarelli, who it is said had received express orders to secure it; such importance did the ruling powers in the mother country attach to its suppression. The volume which escaped, and which is now published for the first time, is divided into two books; the first descriptive of the government, manners, and customs of the original Indian inhabitants of the country—with some account of its natural history: the second, which is perhaps the most valuable, contains the history of the several governments of the Spanish commanders who succeeded each other from 1515 to 1620. A subsequent compiler has added a succinct notice of those who followed, down to the last of the viceroys, Cisneros, with whom, in 1810, concluded the rule of Spain in that part of South America. The whole affords materials of interest to the historian.

Guevara has not hesitated to adopt the generally received opinion, that a race of giants once inhabited that part of the world; in proof of which he refers to their bones, so often met with in many parts of the country, especially about the river Carcarana, south of Santa Fé. In our days, science has corrected this error, and shown that the bones in question are not human, but belonged to the lost species of the mastodon and megatherium.

11. *The Argentina, or Conquest of the Province of La Plata, an Historical Poem, by the Archdeacon Martin del Barco Centenera.* 1601.

The *Argentina* is an attempt to imitate the *Araucana* of Ercilla, being a rhyming chronicle, as the editor calls it, of the ‘History of the Conquest of the Provinces of La Plata.’ The author, like Ercilla, though a priest instead of a soldier, was an eye-witness of many of the most remarkable incidents he relates, and passed twenty-four years in various parts of the countries he describes. He has recorded much that is not to be found elsewhere, except on his authority. This poem is to be found in the third volume of “*Barcia’s Historiadores Primitivos de las Indias* ;” but Angelis says, with so many errors, that he has had no hesitation in giving another version of it. It is now accompanied by a collection of notes, which add greatly to its value.

12. *Description of the River Paraguay, from the mouth of the River Xaurú to its junction with the Parana.* By the Jesuit Father Quiroga.

Father Quiroga, the author of this valuable geographical document, is the same who accompanied the expedition sent to survey the coasts of Patagonia in 1745 (noticed in No. 6 of this collection). He was subsequently selected to determine the geographical position of the several missions of the Jesuits in Paraguay, and to lay down a map of that country, which was completed and published at Rome in 1753, by Franceschelli. "One of the most incorrect portions of this map," observes the editor, "was the course of the river Paraguay;" and it was precisely that which Quiroga had shortly afterwards an opportunity of setting right, being appointed in 1752 to accompany Flores, the Spanish commissioner charged to set up the boundary mark at the mouth of the Xaurú, in fulfilment of the sixth article of the treaty between Spain and Portugal, signed at Madrid in 1750.

The result of his observations on this occasion was adopted by Don Luis de la Cruz, in his great map of South America, published at Madrid in 1775.

As Quiroga's paper is only to be found in Morelli's Latin edition of Charlevoix, we shall give a few quotations from it.

In the first chapter he describes the course of the river Paraguay, from its sources to its junction with the Parana, stating the positions of the mouths of all the principal rivers which flow into it from the Xaurú in $16^{\circ} 25'$. Below the Xaurú, he says, the Paraguay divides into two considerable branches, the principal one running in a narrow but deep channel through the Xarayes (and it was through this that Quiroga himself passed): the other branch flows some leagues to the westward.

Farther down the Porrudos joins it in lat. $17^{\circ} 52'$, and other rivers successively as follows, viz. :—

The Tepoti in	$21^{\circ} 45'$	The Xexui in	$24^{\circ} 7'$
The Corrientes in	22 2	The Quarepoti in	24 23
The Guarambaré in	23 8	The Ibobi in	24 29
The Ipaneguazú in	23 28	The Mboicaén	24 56
The Ipané-mini in	24 4	The Salado in	25 1

The city of Assumption he places in $25^{\circ} 17' 15''$ lat., and long. $58^{\circ} 5' W.$ of Greenwich, though, he says, according to others, it is in $25^{\circ} 16'$ lat., and $58^{\circ} 7'$ long. A little below it the Pilcomayo runs into the Paraguay from the Chaco, by three mouths. The mouth of the Tebiquari is in $26^{\circ} 35'$. The Bermejo joins in lat. $26^{\circ} 54'$, eleven leagues direct distance from the city of Corrientes, where the junction of the Parana and Paraguay takes place in lat. $27^{\circ} 27'$, long. $58^{\circ} 22' W.$ of Greenwich.

In the subsequent chapter the several Indian tribes met with

upon the shores of these rivers are described, as well as the physical features of the country passed by; and the paper concludes with an account of the provinces of Cuyaba and Mattogrosso, their gold and diamond mines, and other productions, and of the inland navigation by which the Portuguese from San Pablo reach those districts.

13. *Diary of the Navigation and Survey of the River Tebiquari; a posthumous work of Don Felix de Azara.* 1785.

Everything of Azara's is valuable. The title of this paper hardly does justice to it: it ought rather to be called a "Month's Excursion in Paraguay." The author started from Assumption by the road which leads to Villa Rica in the interior, thence passing by Casapa, he reached Yuti, where he embarked in a canoe, to follow the river Tebiquari to where it falls into the Paraguay. He returned on horseback by the road which skirts the left bank of that river—a difficult and painful undertaking at the time from the overflowing of the river and the inundation of all the country along its banks. In these swamps the mosquitoes and innumerable venomous insects drove both men and horses almost mad. Man to live in these regions should be amphibious, and armed like the caymans and crocodiles. Azara's object was to lay down correctly the position of every place he passed through, and every feature of the country he could observe with any tolerable accuracy from a distance.

His daily observations are given with the greatest minuteness, and are quite sufficient to enable the geographer to map by them a considerable portion of Paraguay Proper. The possibility of navigating the Tebiquari, which was verified, was of importance, inasmuch as the upper part of that river is situated near some forests where the celebrated Paraguay tea is cut—the great article of export from Paraguay. To send it down the Tebiquari was, if possible, obviously the easiest way of conveying it to the Paraguay, instead of by the overland road to Assumption, as had been the custom previously. Much valuable timber is cut on its banks, and floated down by it, to be sent to Buenos Ayres.

From Yuti, where Azara embarked, it required thirteen days to reach the Paraguay, in a canoe; the whole course of the river being extremely tortuous.

His description of that place may serve as a sample of the other Indian towns through which he passed, and where the system established by the Jesuits was then still in a great measure in operation; the main difference consisting in the Indians working on their own account, instead of for the community. The administration of the place was committed to a corregidor, with other auxiliary officers: it was his duty to keep the Indians in order, and to flog them when necessary; but he was not per-

mitted to inflict more than fifty lashes. His deputies, the *alcaldes*, could only go as far as six. Two of the oldest of the Indians visited every morning the houses of the rest, to see who were sick and required assistance, which it was their business to administer—an office, says Azara, much in request, inasmuch as the holders of it had always the means of taking good care of themselves.

The dress of the women was a single garment, like a long chemise, called *tipoy*: the widows wore it black, and the girls and married women white, their long hair hanging down their backs. The men wore the poncho and dress of the *gauchos* of Buenos Ayres, and went about with arrows and spears, a custom which they appear to have inherited from their forefathers, who were constantly at war with their neighbours.

Their principal occupation is cutting and preparing the *Yerba* or tea, of which, in the year Azara was amongst them, the people of Yuti alone had collected 16,600 *arobas*, or about 400,000 lbs.

Volume III.

14. *Geographical and Statistical Account of the Intendency of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.* By Don Francisco de Viedma, the Governor. 1788.

The editor commences his remarks on this work by observing how vast a portion of the American continent is yet unknown; and how much is wanting to complete our knowledge even of its leading geographical features. Of this, the country here described may be quoted as a striking example:—situated in the midst of mountain chains, difficult of access, far from the sea-coast, without commercial relations, and only in contact with the uncivilized tribes of the adjoining regions, its name hardly figures in our maps; and yet it is extensive and populous, and abounds in the choicest of nature's gifts; sugar, coffee, cocoa, rice, cotton, honey, indigo, are some of its productions, whilst the bowels of the earth are full of mineral treasures. The Spaniards found in it numerous native tribes, whose *caciques* were richly habited, and lived in luxury:—the crowns and the armlets, and the cups of gold and silver which Cabot sent to Charles V., and which led to the misnomer of “the River Plate,” were part of the booty which had been collected by Alexis Garcia in these regions. But whatever may have been the wealth and industry of the natives in those days, it soon disappeared under the yoke of the conquerors, and the enervated half-cast race which grew up with no excitement to improve their condition under the Spanish colonial system, were content to sleep away their lives under a tropical sun, in a state little better than perpetual idleness.

When Viedma was appointed governor-intendant, about 1787, of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, he was greatly struck with its capa-

bilities, if properly administered; and much of the work now before us comprises an investigation into the evils of the existing system, and his suggestions for a better government, which, by stimulating native industry, might lead to the development of the great natural resources of the country. He was the same individual who had previously superintended the settlements on the coasts of Patagonia, and whose report is noticed in No. 8 of this collection. He might as well have preached to the winds.

But things are at last changed in that part of the world: the people have thrown off the yoke which kept them down, and henceforward their prospects depend upon themselves. The editor truly observes, that at present they, and all the new states of America, are but in their infancy:—give them but time to pass the crisis produced by the sudden and entire change which has taken place in their institutions and it may be fairly expected that their progress will be rapid:—no one can calculate their future destinies, but all may see that they contain within them the elements of prosperity:—Europe will be provided from them with many a valuable production now unknown; and the day may come when the sugars of Cuzco, the coffee of Huanuco, and the cocoa of Moxos and Apolobamba will rival those of Brazil, Guayaquil, and Caraccas. Nor is this an idle or groundless speculation: a learned naturalist, Haenke, who resided many years in those parts, has shown they are not, as had been long supposed, excluded by nature from the possibility of carrying on a commercial intercourse with the rest of the world: he has shown that there are navigable rivers—the Beni, the Marmoré, and the Itenes, with their affluents—by which their produce may be carried into the great river, the Madera, and floated down the Marañon, and thence to the Atlantic. Haenke's invaluable paper on this subject was printed in volume V. of our journal, and may be usefully referred to as illustrative of the hydrography of the country described by Viedma. He himself, on the other hand, points out the possibility of a southern passage, or road, across the flat country from Santa Cruz to the Parapiti, and thence to the Pilcomayo, which is at no great distance from it, and is believed to be navigable the whole way to its junction with the Paraguay, opposite to Assumption.

Thus, either by the Marañon or the Rio de la Plata, the produce of Santa Cruz may find an outlet which may make the inhabitants of those countries hereafter a commercial people, though situated in the heart of the continent.

In Viedma's time the Government of Santa Cruz, which now forms an important portion of the new republic of Bolivia, extended from lat. $16^{\circ} 38'$ to 20° S. lat., and comprised the departments of Cochabamba (the capital), Clisa, Misque, Valle Grande,

and Santa Cruz, and the less important districts of Sacaba, Arque, Tapacari, and Hayopaya.

Of the several towns in each department, and their respective population divided into casts, Viedma gives a minute description, setting forth the natural productions and capabilities of each.

He places the situation of Oropesa or Cochabamba, the capital, in lat. $17^{\circ} 22' 33''$. It stands on a plain at the foot of the Cordillera, which is liable to be inundated during the periodical rains, whence its name of Cochabamba, or Cocha-pampa, which signifies a marshy plain. The climate, he says, is temperate and healthy, for, though in a tropical latitude, such is the elevation of the whole country that the Cordillera in the neighbourhood is capt with perpetual snow.

The houses, which are large and convenient, are built of unburnt bricks, and thatched with straw; some of the best of them have two stories: the churches and convents are numerous and well-endowed: the inhabitants were then estimated at upwards of 22,000; they spoke the Quichua language, and even many of the ladies of the better class did not understand Spanish.

The population of the whole province amounted to above 180,000 souls; the labouring part of which were chiefly employed in the manufacture of coarse cotton cloths, called *tucuyos*, for which, at that period, there was a great demand, not only in all the adjoining provinces, but in those extending to Buenos Ayres. The annual value of the imports and exports of the whole intendency Viedma shows, even then, was equal to more than a million and a half of dollars.

The paper concludes with an interesting description of the missions in the provinces of Moxos and Chiquitos.

15. *Some Account of the Province of Tarija*. By Don Juan del Pino Manrique, Governor of Potosi; in a Letter to the Spanish Minister Don José Galvez. 1785.

The notice of this paper would be more in its place after the description of Potosi (No. 9), by the same writer.

Tarija is at present the frontier province of the Bolivian Republic towards the south. Manrique describes it as consisting of a succession of charming valleys, with a delightful climate and fruitful soil; in no part of America, he says, had he seen any country to be compared with this. Corn, maize, the yerba-maté of Paraguay, the coca, flax, and every necessary of life are produced there in the greatest abundance; and such is the increase of the native population in consequence, that great numbers yearly emigrate to settle in the lands farther south, in the jurisdiction of Tucuman. But with all this, he adds, no one knows anything of Tarija. The Spanish authorities, in whose jurisdiction it is situated, never took the trouble to visit it, because as it was known to possess no mine-

ral treasures, and to be merely inhabited by an agricultural people, it was not deemed worthy of the slightest attention.

The main object of the paper is to draw the minister's attention to its natural resources, and the utility which would result from fomenting the industry of the inhabitants, and giving them more importance.

16. *Diary of a Journey to the great Salt Lakes in the Pampas of Buenos Ayres.* By Don P. Andres Garcia. 1810.

This paper, like the last, is out of its place, and should have appeared in the first volume, in connexion with Cruz's Journey across the Continent.

In old times the people of Buenos Ayres were supplied with salt from the great lakes in the south, here described; but as the lands in which they were situated were overrun by the Indians, it was necessary to send an armed force to accompany the periodical expeditions undertaken in quest of it. The editor mentions one of these annual expeditions (in 1778), which consisted of 600 carts, with 12,000 bullocks to draw them; 1000 men, escorted by 400 soldiers and 2600 horses: sometimes they were attended by artillery, to make a more imposing appearance amongst the Indians: in 1810, Don Pedro Garcia was appointed to command one of these parties; and, being a competent geographer, was charged to avail himself of the opportunity to draw up a particular account of the physical features of the country he passed through, and to map it to the best of his abilities. This he has done, and his paper, moreover, contains many details respecting the Indians of the Pampas, which assist us greatly in acquiring a knowledge of the manners and customs of those gipsy tribes.

The daily distances, with a series of latitudes and longitudes, are given in a tabular form; from which the route of these expeditions, and the position of the Salinas, have been laid down, and copied into Mr. Arrowsmith's last map of the Provinces of La Plata.

The largest of these salt lakes is situated, according to Garcia, in lat. $37^{\circ} 13'$, and $63^{\circ} 14'$ long. W. of Greenwich.

17. *Memoir on the Navigation of the River Tercero, and other affluents of the Parana.* By Don Pedro Andres Garcia. 1813.

The river Tercero, which rises in the province of Cordova and falls into the Parana, it appears was examined in the time of the Spaniards, and proved to be navigable for barges as high as the Pass of Ferreira, about thirty leagues below the city of Cordova.

The object of the writer of this paper is to show the facilities it affords for the transport of the produce of the provinces of Cordova and Cuyo to Buenos Ayres; while the Vermejo and Pilcomayo may be turned to the like account by the inhabitants of Tucuman and Salta and Upper Peru. The whole of his paper

tends to prove that there is no part of the world in which greater facilities are afforded for the establishment of an inland navigation.

18. *Historical, Geographical, and Political Account of the ci-devant Jesuit Missions in Paraguay.* By the Governor Don Gonzales de Doblas. 1785.

In the whole of this collection there is not a more interesting work than this. Its title is fully realized by its contents, which certainly comprise the most valuable account of Paraguay as yet published. Doblas was appointed to administer the new system of government established in the Guarani towns, after the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1768—a system full of errors, and which in a very few years led to the total ruin of those celebrated establishments. He arrived, however, in time to foresee and to foretell their inevitable fate,* unless a radical change took place in the mode of managing them; and one of the main objects of his labours was to draw the attention of the court of Spain to the absolute necessity of this, if they desired to preserve them. Señor de Angelis states, that some years afterwards the king showed a disposition to adopt his honest suggestion, but it was then too late; the depopulation of the missions was complete, and the ruins of their churches and buildings are all that, in many places, are now left to show that they ever existed. Although in a geographical point of view this work is of great interest, it is still more so as correcting some of the many erroneous impressions respecting the rule of the Jesuits in Paraguay, and goes far to justify them from the calumnious attacks made upon them by those who were interested in destroying the reputation of that celebrated order.

19. *Ulderico Schmidt's Voyage to the River Plate, in 1534*, is not new to us; it is to be met with in most of the collections of early voyages to that part of the world.

20. *The remaining Papers of the third volume of Señor Angelis' work consist of a Collection of Original Records, showing—*1st, The foundation of the city of Buenos Ayres in 1580, by Don Juan de Garay, and his allotment of the lands and Indians to his followers; 2nd, The foundation of Monte Video in 1724; 3rd, The "*Actas Capitulares*," or Proceedings of the Cabildo and People of Buenos Ayres, upon receipt of the news of the successes of the French in Spain, and the overthrow of the legitimate government of the mother country, which led them to establish their own first Junta in 1810.

These documents, though valuable to the historian, hardly come within the province of this Journal to notice further. In our next volume we hope to continue the analysis of the remaining volumes of Señor de Angelis' interesting publication.

* In the first seventeen years the population decreased from 100,000 to 60,000.